

UUA TILL

SASC BEG 17 Mar 88OCA 88-0985  
17 March 1988

## MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD


SUBJECT: Nicaragua Briefing for the Senate Armed Services  
Committee on 17 March 1988

1. On 17 March 1988 CIA briefer Marty Roeber (NIO/LA) participated in a briefing on the situation in northern Nicaragua/border of Honduras area for seven Members of the Senate Armed Services Committee in Room 222 of the Senate Russell Building. The key briefer was Deputy Secretary of Defense William Taft, assisted by Army Col. Cash, Army Major Keller and Air Force General Lotzbire, and of course, NIO/LA Marty Roeber. Marty had to do much of the briefing as far as facts were concerned, and Mr. Taft and his counsel, a Navy Captain and lawyer, handled the policy and legal questions.

2. The Senators who attended were Sam Nunn (D.,GA), William Cohen (R.,ME), Alan Dixon (D.,IL), Phil Gramm (R.,TX), Carl Levin (D.,MI), John Warner (R.,VA) and Pete Wilson (R.,CA). Several of these Senators had attended a similar briefing earlier that morning and had had the time to think about their questions. Marty gave his usual low key, factual presentation and handled the questions extremely well, deflecting one where there was a minor discrepancy from the previous briefing very smoothly. Much of the thrust of the questioning was in the field of policy, which Mr. Taft and his lawyer handled, but Marty frequently was called on to provide the facts. I was pleased to see that Senator Nunn made it a point to ask just what was classified and what could be discussed to the press.

3. We subsequently learned that late in the afternoon Marty had to go to a similar briefing for a group of Senators, but there was no time for any OCA representative to assist. I heard that indeed he did rescue Mike Armacost, so at least that was worth it.

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Deputy Director, House Affairs  
Office of Congressional Affairs

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